



FAQ - Simulation blocks and nomination process for nursing students



What is a simulation block?

A simulation block (SB) is a compulsory on-campus intensive where students learn and practice their clinical skills in a simulated nursing environment in preparation for clinical placement.

How many simulation blocks do I need to attend in my course?

There are three (3) simulation blocks in the course at each year-level. These are embedded into NUR125, NUR244 and NUR343.

What is the difference between a simulation block and a clinical placement?

A simulation block is an educational activity where students practice nursing activities and skills prior to placement. These are designed to begin integrating your knowledge from your other units into key skills you will use in the clinical setting on clinical placement. Clinical Placement takes place in a real clinical practice setting such as a hospital, residential care facility or a community health setting.

Why do I have to nominate for simulation block?

Students must nominate for a simulation block because blocks are timetabled throughout the semester at specific times. There are limits as to how many students can be accommodated in the teaching spaces each week.

When do I have to nominate?

The nomination period for simulation blocks are in Semester 1 and Semester 2. The Placement Office advises all students of the dates well before the actual nomination period opens.

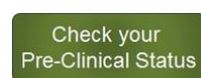
Students must nominate within the stated

date range. It is strongly recommended students make a note or place a reminder of the dates in their diaries.

Late nominations are unable to be accepted.

How do I nominate for a simulation block?

[Log into the nomination portal here](#)



Click the button and follow the prompts. Or you can paste this link into your browser: <https://portal.cdu.edu.au/my.policy>

An Online Placement Nomination button is located at the end of the information under the simulation block tab.

Can I request a specific date and/or venue for a simulation block?

Students can give their preferences for simulation block venue but not for specific dates.

While the Placement Office will do their best to accommodate preferences, the College reserves the right to allocate students to any simulation venue and date and there is no guarantee student preferences will be met.

My nomination has one of the following messages: Error or You have already nominated or Breach. What do I do?

- Error message: Try a different web browser eg Mozilla or Chrome.
- Breach or You have already nominated message: Contact the Placement office, your account may need to be reset: nurplac@cdu.edu.au

What happens after I have nominated?

Once nominations close, the Placement Office begins the process of allocating and confirming students to a simulation block.

This can take 6 to 8 weeks to complete.

Students are requested to be patient while this process is completed.

Students are advised via their CDU Student email account of the date and location of their simulation block. All simulation block notifications are sent *only* to CDU student email addresses.

Can I change the date or location of my simulation block?

Students are expected to attend simulation block on the date and at the venue advised by the Placement Office. There is no guarantee the Placement Office can accommodate changes to simulation block dates or venues.

When I am assigned to a simulation block, does that mean I am enrolled in the unit?

No. These are different processes.

Once students have received confirmation of a simulation block place, you must then enrol into the relevant unit. You will need to have met all unit pre-requisites before enrolling.

Can I attend simulation block if I am not enrolled in the unit?

No. Students who are not enrolled in the relevant unit are not permitted to attend simulation block.

Students who come to simulation block and are found not be enrolled will be asked to leave the block.

When I try to enrol, I get a “Breach error” message.

This error occurs because students cannot enrol in a unit until they meet all unit pre-requisites, including a confirmed place in a simulation block.

If you receive a Breach error, check the following:

- Have I successfully completed all the pre-requisite units?
- Did I nominate for a simulation block place in the unit?
- Have I submitted all my pre-clinical documents?
- Do I have a confirmed place in a simulation block?

If you have answered “yes” to all of these questions, contact Enrolment Help for assistance: enrolmenthelp@cdu.edu.au.

I am currently enrolled in a pre-requisite unit but do not have a final grade. How or when will I know if I can progress to simulation block in the next semester?

Students who do not meet unit pre-requisites will be tentatively allocated a simulation block place. Your place will be confirmed once final grades are released on Grade Release date.

If a fail, SPEC or AC grade is issued for a pre-requisite unit, you will not be eligible to attend simulation block. You can then nominate for a place in a simulation block in the next semester when you meet the pre-requisites.

Can I attend simulation block if I do not pass the pre-requisite unit/s?

No. Successful completion of pre-requisite units are mandatory for eligibility to enrol in the unit.

Can I do a placement before my simulation block?

No. Students must successfully complete simulation block and meet all pre-clinical requirements to be able to proceed to the placement component of the unit.

What happens if I have nominated but do not get a place in a simulation block?

Students will be placed on a waiting list for any available simulation block places that may become available. If no spaces become available, students will have to nominate for a place in the next offering of the unit.

I have to travel to attend my simulation block. Are travel costs covered and is accommodation available?

All arrangements and costs associated with travelling to simulation block and/or placement are a student responsibility.

On campus accommodation is available in Darwin and Alice Springs.

<https://www.cdu.edu.au/equity-services/accommodation>

Placement Office can provide information about reasonably priced accommodation near the Sydney campus.

Do I have to wear CDU uniform at simulation block?

Yes. Students are required to wear full CDU Nursing Student uniform at simulation block. See the *Clinical Placement Resource Manual* for information. The manual is also available from the College Central site on Learnline or in your Learnline Unit.

Where can I get a CDU student and student identification (ID) from?

Students use their CDU Student Card as identification. Student Cards are available from the My CDU web site

<https://www.cdu.edu.au/current-students/my-cdu>

CDU Nursing Student shirts are available from the CDU Bookshop Online Store or at the Darwin campus.

<https://www.cdu.edu.au/bookshop>

What should I bring with me to simulation block?

- Prescribed text books relevant to the unit
- Uniform for up to 5 days or ensure you have the ability to launder clothes at or near your accommodation
- Student ID card
- Fob watch. Wrist watches are not appropriate in clinical settings
- Covered in shoes that meet CDU Nursing Student uniform requirements. See the Clinical Placement Resource Manual for Students
- Clothing appropriate to venue location. Darwin can be quite hot and wet and Alice Springs very cold in some months of the year.
- Personal effects and medicines

Do I need to do any study before I come to simulation block?

Yes. Students are expected to come to simulation block prepared for the activities and skills in the block.

Each unit will have learning materials or readings that students are expected to complete before coming to simulation block.

It is recommended students logon to the unit Learnline site as soon as they are enrolled to access information about the unit and what is required of them before simulation and/or placement.

There are 4 placements in the third year of the course. Do I need to attend a simulation block before each one?

No. Students must successfully complete NUR343 simulation block and meet all preclinical requirements to be eligible for NUR343, NUR344 and NUR346 placements.

If I don't pass the simulation block, will I still be able to attend my placement?

No. Students must successfully complete simulation block to be eligible to attend placement.

I am repeating a clinical unit. Do I have to redo the simulation block?

Yes. If a student is issued a fail grade in a previous attempt, they must re-enrol and redo *all* unit requirements, including simulation block and assessments.

Contacts

Preclinical requirements

Pre-Clinical Coordinator:
preclinicals@cdu.edu.au

Simulation block nominations and places

CDU Placement Office:
nurplac@cdu.edu.au

Unit requirements

Unit Coordinator: See relevant unit
Learnline site for contact details.